DC #28

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN MAY

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BUGS BUNNY™
three-issue mini-series

THE DEMON
ongoing monthly series

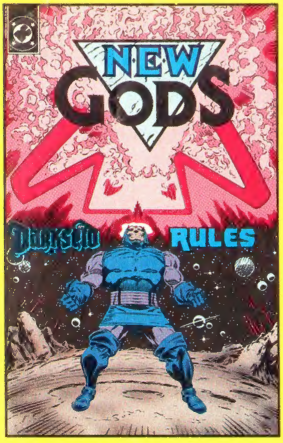
THE PRISONER
trade paperback

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN
ongoing monthly series

V FOR VENDETTA
trade paperback

PLUS...

an interview with
John Costanza



Cover Of The Month
NEW GODS #17

THE DEMON RETURNS

Etrigan is back . . . and this time he's got a plan.

THE DEMON returns in an all-new monthly series along with his mortal host, Jason Blood, as well as many of the supporting characters from the original series created by Jack Kirby. While Blood sleeps, The Demon Etrigan wanders through the depths of Hell, raising an army of the dead to assist him in overthrowing the three lords of the Underworld. And once he does, Etrigan plans to rule . . . and take vengeance on everybody who ever opposed him.

THE DEMON is part horror, part power politics of hell, part black comedy . . . and all chilling action.

THE DEMON is a monthly ongoing New Format series, written by Alan Grant, with art by Val Semeiks and Denis Rodier.

Etrigan's story begins anew . . . and THE DEMON promises to be a Hell of a tale.

V FOR VENDETTA and *THE PRISONER* TRADE PAPERBACK EDITIONS

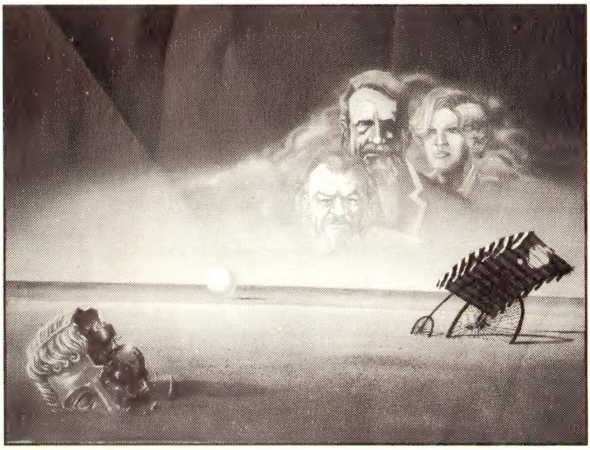
Two of DC's most admired limited series of the late 1980s are re-presented in trade paperback editions this month.

First up is **V FOR VENDETTA**, featuring the complete 10-issue saga of V, the one man who has dedicated himself to fighting the oppressive rule of the despotic leaders of Great Britain in 1997.

V FOR VENDETTA is a downbeat thriller, begun in 1982 in the British comics magazine Warrior, but not completed until DC picked up the series in 1988. The 288-page V FOR VENDETTA Trade Paperback Edition is written by Alan Moore, with art and new painted cover by David Lloyd. The book is colored by Steve Whitaker, Siobhan Dodds, and Lloyd. This edition also includes a new introduction by Lloyd, as well as reprinting the original introduction by Moore and an article from Britain's *Warrior* Magazine that explains how the series was created.

Then, **THE PRISONER** trade paperback collects in a single volume the entire authorized four-book Prestige Format miniseries sequel to the 1967 British television series. Return with us to The Village, that mysterious place where old and retired spies are sent to be imprisoned . . . to tell their secrets. But Number Six still has secrets he's not going to reveal, and the intervening 25 years haven't changed his mind.

The 208-page trade paperback edition of THE PRISONER is written by Dean Motter and Mark Askwith, with art by Motter, and coloring by David Hornung and Richmond Lewis. The book includes all four original covers, as well as a new introductory piece written and illustrated by Motter. The introduction reviews events from the television series, sets the stage for this story, and includes plates from the original TV show. Motter also contributes an all-new wraparound cover painted for this edition.



THE PRISONER

EH...WHAT'S UP, DOC? THE *BUGS BUNNY*™ MINI-SERIES

He doesn't look it, but Bugs Bunny™ turns 50 this year. And, just in time to wish him a happy birthday, DC Comics is pleased to announce the **BUGS BUNNY** mini-series, three issues of wackiness, fun, and adventure, starring Bugs, Daffy Duck™, and the rest of the Warner Bros. Looney Tunes™ gang.

Bugs and Daffy have stumbled onto a plot by Witch Hazel™ to use some mythical artifacts for the nefarious purpose of gaining power and wealth. Well, mostly power. The artifacts in question? The legendary "Busts of Fudd," molded out of ancient Plaztec and modeled after explorer Amerigo Fudd, ancestor of Elmer Fudd™.

Along with many of their friends (and a bunch of their enemies), Bugs and Daffy set off on a globe-hopping quest to stop her plot. Guest stars include Speedy Gonzales™, The Tasmanian Devil™, Sylvester™, Yosemite Sam™, and Marvin the Martian™.

BUGS BUNNY is a three-issue mini-series in the Standard Format, written by Joey Cavalieri, with art by Chuck Fiala and John Costanza.

And th-th-that ain't all, folks.

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor

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Printed in Canada

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN, BACK FROM THE META-ZONE

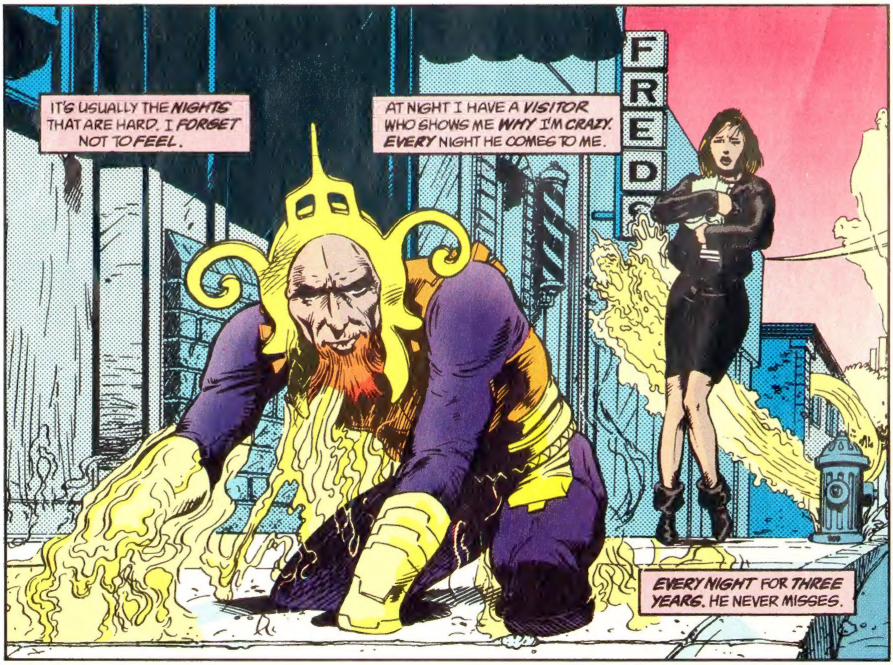
Welcome to the Mental States of America in **SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN.**

The otherworldly Rac Shade is back from the Meta-Zone . . . only this time, he's got to inhabit the body of a psychopathic killer on death row. And the day he takes up residence is the day the killer's scheduled to be executed. Now SHADE must convince someone of his true identity before the people from his home dimension can unleash madness across America.

But the only one he's convinced so far is the daughter of one of the condemned killer's victims.

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN is an ongoing monthly series in the New Format, written by Peter Milligan, with art by Chris Bachalo and Mark Pennington. The painted cover is by Brendan McCarthy. SHADE #1 is a special 48-page first issue.

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN . . . a continuing journey through the heart and soul of America.


IT'S USUALLY THE *NIGHTS* THAT ARE HARD. I *FORGET* NOT TO *FEEL*.
AT NIGHT I HAVE A *VISITOR* WHO SHOWS ME *WHY* I'M *CRAZY*. *EVERY* NIGHT HE COMES TO ME.
FRED
EVERY NIGHT FOR *THREE YEARS*. HE NEVER MISSES.

BOOKS SHIPPING IN MAY

ACTION COMICS #654
Part 3 of the 3-part "Dark Knight Over Metropolis": Continuing from ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #467 as Superman and Batman join forces with Gangbuster to save Cat Grant from Intergangsters . . . and the verdict comes in on Morgan Edge. Written by Roger Stern, pencilled by Bob McLeod, and inked by Brett Breeding. Cover by Pérez. $.75

ADAM STRANGE #3
(of a 3-book mini-series)
Revolution has swept Rann . . . and the beleaguered planet's only hope for a return to calm is the outlaw Adam Strange. All that's left for him now is to restore some order to his own chaotic life. Written by Richard Bruning, with art by Andy Kubert, and color by Adam Kubert. Painted cover by Andy Kubert. *(Prestige Format)* $3.95

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #19
The gods have fallen and taken on human form and one of them is claiming to be the Avatar of Selune, goddess of the moon. But Luna is goddess of the moon . . . isn't she? Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Jan Duursema and Rick Magyar. Cover by Duursema. *(New Format)* $1.50

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #468
Superman retrieves from orbit the Matrix Chamber ship that brought him to Earth as he searches for the secrets that the Chamber holds. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Art Thibert. Cover by Jurgens and Breeding with process coloring by Jerry Ordway. Also: (free) 8 extra pages offering insight into Superman's legend by Jurgens, Gammill and others—a different 8-page insert in each Superman title this month. $.75

ANIMAL MAN #25
Animal Man visits the realm of comic book limbo in his continuing quest to discover his creator. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE ATLANTIS CHRONICLES #4
(of a 7-issue maxi-series)
The history of Atlantis continues to unfold as Orin surrenders the throne to his daughter Cora . . . though the transition is less than smooth. Written by Peter David, with art and cover by Esteban Maroto. *(Deluxe Format)* $2.95

BATMAN #449
The Penguin threatens the security of the United States . . . and there's not a thing Batman can do to stop him. Published bi-weekly in May. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Mark Bright and Randy Emberlin. Cover by Norm Breyfogle. $1.00

BATMAN #450
The Joker is terrorizing Gotham City . . . or at least someone pretending to be the Clown Prince of Crime is doing the deed while the *real* Joker lies low. Until he just can't stand it any longer. . . . Published bi-weekly in May. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Jim Aparo and Mike DeCarlo. $1.00

BATMAN #451
The man who killed Jason Todd is back in action . . . and Batman can't wait to get his hands on the Joker to make him pay for that crime. Continued in DETECTIVE COMICS #617. Published bi-weekly in May. Written by Marv Wolfman, with pencils by Jim Aparo. $1.00

BATMAN ANNUAL #14
Following the events of BATMAN: YEAR ONE, Jim Gordon introduces Batman to Gotham City's new and courageous district attorney, Harvey Dent, who joins forces with the Caped Crusader to cut deep into Gotham's underworld. But something about the D.A.'s attitude toward crime bothers Batman. Written by Andrew Helfer and pencilled by Chris Sprouse. $2.00

BLACKHAWK #16
The Blackhawks want out from under CIA control . . . but they don't want to lose Blackhawk Island in the process. The final issue of BLACKHAWK engages the high-flying heroes in a conflict that could turn out to be deadlier than any war. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Rick Burchett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

BUGS BUNNY™ #1
(of a 3-issue mini-series)
Bugs and Daffy Duck stumble (literally) upon a plot by Witch Hazel™ to gain possession of the ancient busts of Amerigo Fudd (Elmer Fudd's™ ancestor) . . . artifacts that could give her power to rule the world. Guest stars include Speedy Gonzales™, the Tasmanian Devil™, Porky Pig™, Sylvester™, Tweety™, and a whole lot more. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art by Chuck Fiala and John Costanza. $1.00

THE BUTCHER #3
(of a 5-issue mini-series)
The Butcher's unrelenting fury begins to take its toll on the corporation as they begin to turn on their own . . . only to be hit again by John and his martial arts master. Cover by Paris Cullins and Pensa. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

CAPTAIN ATOM #42
Captain Atom escapes the realm of the spirit . . . and finds himself caught in Hell. Guest-starring the Black Racer, the Phantom Stranger, and Red Tornado. Written by Cary Bates and Greg Weisman, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pat Broderick. $1.00

CHECKMATE! #29
Cypher's running some deadly tests of its robotic Bishop corps, creating mayhem on his way to fulfilling his master plan. Will Winston O'Donnell save the day? or will he quit Checkmate forever? Written by Paul Kupperberg and Al Vey. Cover by Tom Grindberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE DEMON #1
The Demon is back in a new ongoing monthly series. The Demon Etrigan begins his assault on the masters of hell in his quest for vengeance and domination. Written by Alan Grant, with pencils by Val Semeiks and inks by Denis Rodier. Cover by Rodier. *(New Format)* $1.50

DETECTIVE COMICS #616
A mysterious stranger taps an ancient force that unleashes fear and dread on the streets of Gotham City. Published bi-weekly in May. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

DETECTIVE COMICS #617
Related to BATMAN #450. Batman realizes that the Joker is alive and active, and a past battle may provide a clue to the current confrontation. Published bi-weekly in May. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

DOC SAVAGE #22
Doc Savage returns to his roots as a mysterious case in 1908 involves Doc as a boy in one of his father's adventures . . . and leads to long-hidden revelations about Doc's mother. Written by Mike W. Barr, and pencilled by Rod Whigham. Painted full-process color cover by Adam Kubert. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

DR. FATE #18
Dr. Benjamin Stoner (from the DR. FATE mini-series) is back and Chaos has him. Meanwhile, Linda continues her search for Eric. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Shawn McManus. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE DOOM PATROL #34
Cliff Steele's going up against the toughest foe he's ever faced . . . himself, as his disembodied brain and new robot body engage in a most unusual dialogue. Also, the Brain and Monsieur Mallah return. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Richard Case and John Nyberg. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(New Format)* $1.50

DRAGONLANCE™ #21
Part 1 of the 4-part "Taladas": Riva and Myrella finally meet as they begin adventures on Taladas, the mysterious continent on the other side of the world. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Ron Randall and Randy Elliott. Cover by Randall. *(New Format)* $1.50

BOOKS SHIPPING IN MAY

EL DIABLO #11
To avenge the shooting of one of his friends by members of an L.A. crack ring, El Diablo takes the fight to their home turf. But in a world of big guns, fast money, and cheap life, does El Diablo stand a chance? Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg. *(New Format)* $1.75

FIRESTORM #99
One of Ronnie Raymond's old foes resurfaces, endangering Firestorm's life . . . while on the surface of the sun, cosmic forces manifest themselves as a deadly familiar presence. Written by John Ostrander, with pencils and cover by Tom Mandrake, inks by Carlos Garzon. $1.00

FLASH #40
It seems Linda has been possessed by the spirit of an ancient Irish bard; but when Wally turns to an old friend for help, he finds the evil Dr. Alchemy instead. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and José Marzan, Jr. $1.00

FLASH SPECIAL #1
The Flash celebrates 50 years of publication in an 80-page special. The story stars all three generations of the Scarlet Speedster, each facing the same villain in his own time. The framing sequence is by Mark Waid, with art by Mike Parobeck and José Marzan, Jr. The Jay Garrick chapter is written by Len Strazewski, with art by Irv Novick and Dick Giordano. The Barry Allen chapter is written by Gerard Jones, with art by Carmine Infantino and John Nyberg. The Wally West chapter is written by William Messner-Loebs and pencilled by Paris Cullins. Plus, Flash-Facts, featuring histories and backgrounds of Flash and friends. Cover by Joe Kubert. $2.95

FORD FAIRLANE #3
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
Ford's hot on the trail of the world's most sought-after rock-and-roll relic . . . but the trail is strewn with the bodies of one murder victim after another. Can Ford crack the case before it cracks him? Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Russell Braun, Jose Delbo, and Don Heck. Cover by Delbo and Heck. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

FORGOTTEN REALMS™ #12
Part 2 of the 3-part "Triangles": Vartan realizes that young Jasmine is at the eye of the magical storm that's raining on everyone's parade. Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by R.A. Morales and Dave Simons. *(New Format)* $1.50

GREEN ARROW #33
As Oliver Queen experiences the pain and trauma of being a victim, Dinah is made acutely aware of just how close she came to losing him . . . and begins to change her views on motherhood. Written by Mike Grell, pencilled by Dan Jurgens, and inked by Frank McLaughlin. Cover by Jurgens and Giordano. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

GREEN LANTERN #2
While Hal tries to find solace in a harbor town, Guy Gardner runs into (and over) an old GL villain, the Tattooed Man. Meanwhile, John Stewart runs afoul of a Guardian of Oa. Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Pat Broderick and Bruce Patterson. Cover by Broderick. $1.00

HAWK & DOVE #14
Hank's girlfriend is also Hawk and Dove's deadliest enemy—Kestrel. Events are set into motion that will eventually lead the duo to their *true* origin. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art and cover by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Greg Guler and Karl Kesel. $1.00

HAWKWORLD #2
Katar and Shayera kick off their goodwill tour of Earth in Chicago . . . but no slick presentation can prepare them for the campaign launched by Byth. Written by Tim Truman and John Ostrander, with art and cover by Graham Nolan. *(New Format)* $1.50

HELLBLAZER #31
Constantine rides an emotional roller coaster as he's reunited with his family at his father's funeral. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Sean Phillips. Painted cover by Kent Williams. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

THE HUNTRESS #16
It's The Huntress vs. the mob and the corruption of volatile TV host Mike Cobb. And, in the aftermath, Helena is forced to adopt a new identity. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Bob Smith. *(Suggested for Mature Readers)* $1.25

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #40
The JLA buries one of their own as Max contemplates adding to the group's ranks. Meanwhile, Booster Gold's starting the search for members for a team of his *own* . . . the results of which will be seen in JUSTICE LEAGUE QUARTERLY. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Adam Hughes and Joe Rubinstein. Cover by Hughes. $1.00

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #15
They've destroyed the world of the Silver Sorceress and Blue Jay, and now they're coming for ours—the most powerful team of super-villains around. Written by Keith Giffen and Gerard Jones. Art by Bart Sears and Pablo Marcos. Cover by Bart Sears. $1.00

JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL BUTTON SET
Limited to 10,000 numbered sets, the JLI button set includes four 4-color buttons reprinting art from the popular series. Each button is a different shape. The set includes a team shot by Kevin Maguire (the cover of JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #24), Blue Beetle and Booster Gold by Adam Hughes and Art Nichols (from JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #33), Guy Gardner by Adam Hughes and Art Nichols (from JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #33), and Fire and Ice by Adam Hughes and Joe Rubinstein (from JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #31). $8.00

L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 #17
It's an all-out assault on Dagon-Ra and his space pirates . . . but is it also a trap? Written by Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mark McKenna. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Al Gordon. *(New Format)* $1.50

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #8
Part 3 of the 5-part "Man Without A Shadow": Batman's investigation into Mr. Whisper's past takes him to Bavaria . . . and ties to his own father, as well as dark, hidden secrets about his own past and future. Written by Grant Morrison, with art and cover by Klaus Janson. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.50

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #9
The all-new origin of the Legion concludes as the story focuses on the super girl Laurel Gand, who's been flying through recent issues. Written by Tom and Mary Bierbaum, with pencils by Keith Giffen and Paris Cullins, and inks by Al Gordon and Bob Lewis. Cover by Giffen and Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

LOONEY TUNES™ MAGAZINE #3
It's jokes, puzzles, articles, comics, a mini-poster, and other special features in the latest issue of the magazine that stars all the characters of the Looney Tunes™ gang, including Bugs Bunny™, Daffy Duck™, Porky Pig™, and the rest. A 32-page magazine. $1.95

MISTER MIRACLE #17
Mister Miracle returns to Apokolips . . . and starts the groundswell of a revolution that doesn't please Darkseid in the least. On Earth, a grieving Barda is thrown into jail. Guest-starring the Female Furies. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Joe Phillips and Bob Dvorak. Cover by Phillips. $1.00

NEW GODS #17
Yuga Khan awakens from eons of dormancy—with his evil eyes set on Apokolips. Even Darkseid fears this being. Guest-starring Lar Gand from L.E.G.I.O.N. '90. Plotted by Paris Cullins, written by Mark Evanier, inked by Willie Blyberg. Cover by Cullins and Blyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

BOOKS SHIPPING IN MAY

THE NEW TITANS #68
The Royal Flush Gang are in town to take on the New Titans . . . with a little help from their newest recruit, Danny Chase. Written by guest-writers Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Steve Erwin and Bob Smith. Cover by Tom Grummett and Al Vey. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

THE NEW TITANS ANNUAL #6
Starfire fights the ultimate battle with her emotions when she and her Titan teammates are plunged into an uneasy alliance with Blackfire to thwart an attack on Tamaran. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Tom Grindberg, Paris Cullins, Curt Swan, and Al Vey. Cover by Tom Grummett and Dick Giordano. *(Deluxe Format)* $3.50

THE PRISONER
Trade Paperback Edition
The complete four-book mini-series based on the 1960s cult classic television program is re-presented in a 208-page trade paperback edition. Also included is a new illustrated text feature by series writer/artist Dean Motter, giving background information from the TV show. Written by Motter and Mark Askwith, art by Motter, and color by David Hornung and Richmond Lewis. New painted wraparound cover by Motter. $19.95

THE RING #4
(of a 4-book mini-series)
Adaptation of the fourth and final opera of Wagner's Ring Cycle. Against a background of treachery and dark magic, the Valkyrie Brünnhilde fights for her love of the hero Siegfried. Written by Roy Thomas, with art by Gil Kane. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.)* $4.95

THE SANDMAN #17
Sandman's London house has some new residents . . . only they're not exactly human. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Kelley Jones and Malcolm Jones III. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

SGT. ROCK SPECIAL #8
Re-presenting the classic battle tale "Eye of a Blind Gunner," starring Sgt. Rock and the combat-happy joes of Easy Co. by Robert Kanigher and Joe Kubert. Plus, other sagas of war by Neal Adams and Alex Toth. Cover by Kubert. $2.00

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #1
Steve Ditko's creation gets a new lease on life as the other-dimensional Rac Shade returns to Earth from the Meta-Zone . . . and into the body of a psychopathic killer on the day of his execution. This special 48-page first issue is written by Peter Milligan, with art by Chris Bachalo and Mark Pennington. Painted cover by Brendan McCarthy. *(New Format)* $2.50

THE SHADOW STRIKES! #10
Part 3 of the 3-part "Fireworks": The Shadow comes face to face with his archenemy, Shiwan Khan, and must stop his evil master plan before the situation explodes. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Eduardo Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

STAR TREK® #10
"The Trial of James T. Kirk" begins . . . and forces are in play that just might end his illustrious career. Written by Peter David, with art by James W. Fry and Arne Starr. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION #10
Picard and the crew of the Enterprise are detained, pending investigation of charges that they've gone rogue, forcing Picard to review the events that helped shape him into the man he has become. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

STARMAN #24
Will heads off to San Francisco to confront the man responsible for his father's death, only to find the man about to commit suicide. Should Starman intervene? Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Scott Hanna. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

SUICIDE SQUAD #42
Part 3 of the 4-part "Phoenix Gambit": The Squad is reassembled and ready to infiltrate Count Vertigo's revolutionary forces in Vlatava, only to discover that the Soviet Red Shadows are on their tail. Guest-starring Batman. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by Geof Isherwood and Mark Badger. $1.00

SUPERBOY #6
Lex Luthor is back in Superboy's life and comes complete with a plan to destroy the Boy of Steel with the help of deadly Kryptonite. Written by John Moore, with art by Jim Mooney and Ty Templeton. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Templeton. $1.00

SUPERBOY #6

SUPERMAN #45
Clark goes home to Smallville to break the news of his relationship with Lois Lane to Lana Lang. Needless to say, she doesn't take the news very well. Also, the Man of Steel's origin is retold. Written and pencilled by Jerry Ordway, with inks by Dennis Janke. Also: (free) 8 extra pages of insight into Superman's legend by Ordway, Kerry Gammill, and others. A different 8-page insert in each Superman title this month. Cover by Ordway. $.75

SWAMP THING #97
Can Swamp Thing and his allies rescue Tefé from the demon Nergal in Hell . . . especially with Arcane in the picture? Written by Doug Wheeler. Art by Pat Broderick and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by John Totleben. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

TEMPUS FUGITIVE #4
(of a 4-book mini-series)
The story of Ray 27 concludes as he makes a last desperate attempt to prevent his world from coming into existence by changing the past . . . if he can. Fully painted art, story, and cover by Ken Steacy. *(Prestige Format)* $4.95

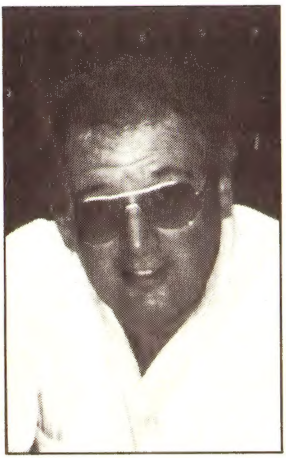
TIME MASTERS #6
(of an 8-issue maxi-series)
The Time Masters delve deeper into the past, confronting evil in ancient Egypt, as they attempt to thwart a present-day conspiracy by changing the past. Written by Bob Wayne and Lewis Shiner, with art by Art Thibert and Carlos Marzan. Cover by Thibert. *(New Format)* $1.75

V FOR VENDETTA
Trade Paperback Edition
It's 1997 in Great Britain . . . a time of oppression and despair at the hands of evil despots. But it's also the time of V, who is out to change all that through whatever means necessary. This 288-page trade paperback edition collects the complete 10-issue maxi-series written by Alan Moore, with art and a new cover painting by David Lloyd. Also included: a new introduction by David Lloyd, Alan Moore's original introduction to the series, and an article outlining the origins and background of the series. *(Suggested for Mature Readers)* $14.95

WONDER WOMAN #44
The saga of the Silver Swan concludes. When it's over, will she be friend or foe to Diana? Written by George Pérez and Mindy Newell, with art by Chris Marrinan and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Marrinan and Pérez. $1.00

people at WORK

JOHN COSTANZA



You've probably noticed the name John Costanza listed in many a DC comic credit box as the book's letterer. What you may not know is that John also has a second career in comics, as a penciller and inker on so-called "funny animal" comics for a variety of publishers.

"I was born in 1943 in Dover, New Jersey, which is where the Joe Kubert School is these days," John told us. That coincidence would later play a starring role in John's entry into the comic book field.

"I used to read comic books when I was a kid, but I never read the serious stuff. I was a big fan of the humor and funny animal comics, like Jerry Lewis, Abbott and Costello, Bugs Bunny and the rest of the Warner Bros. Looney Tunes characters. I never really went in for the super-hero characters.

"I dreamed of drawing comics. I used to work in my grandfather's barber shop and that's where I more or less started drawing. And at the kitchen table . . . like every young artist, you know, I drew on brown paper bags or whatever else I could get my hands on."

John was also a fan of the animated cartoons and he remembers, "When I was a kid, we didn't have all the types of cartoons they have today. We mostly had the old black-and-white stuff, like Farmer Gray, and the rest of the Paul Terry animation. Until, I guess, a man named Sandy Becker came along on television here in the New York area. That's when they started putting the good cartoons on TV, so that we no longer had to go down to the movie theater to see them anymore. Becker's show was on in the evenings during the week and he showed lots of cartoons. I forget just what year that was, but that's how it started for me.

"I took some art courses in high school, but that's really the only training I had," John said. "And I didn't know what direction I was going in with my art. In those days, I had no idea where comics came from, what comics were, as a business, so I wound up in the service after high school."

John broke into the comic book business after he separated from the service, and that's where the coincidence of living in the same town as artist and then DC editor Joe Kubert came into play. "Joe's wife went to a beautician who was a friend of my wife, and she had mentioned to Joe's wife that I liked to draw and that I'd just gotten out of the service. Well, Joe was looking for someone to help him with the Green Beret syndicated newspaper strip that he was doing. This was in the late '60s. Joe taught me how to letter, and I worked with him on the strip until it was cancelled.

"After that, Joe went back into comics and he introduced me to people up at DC and I started lettering regularly for them."

John still hadn't forgotten his dream of working on the cartoon characters he grew up admiring. "An inker for Western Publishing, which was publishing the Warner Bros. characters at the time, introduced me to Paul Kuhn, an editor up there, and he gave me work. The first book that I pencilled was one of those small comics that they used to give out at shoe stores and the like. It was a Smokey the Bear comic. That's how it started. Smokey the Bear led me to doing the Warner Bros. characters, like Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Yosemite Sam . . . the whole lot of them. I was thrilled to death that my dream really did come true.

"Of course, actually drawing for publication was quite a bit different from when I used to sit down at the kitchen table and draw these characters on paper bags. Then I could draw what I wanted, any time I wanted. Now I had to learn to get on a schedule and that was all new to me. I found out that's an important part of the business."

John worked on the Looney Tunes characters until Western stopped publishing them, around 1980. "But," John says, "I'm still working for Western, a little bit here and there, on children's books, licensed characters, mostly the Warner Bros. stuff. But I've worked on a lot of characters, like Underdog, My Pet Monster . . . it's hard to remember them all. There've been so many, including the stuff I've done for Marvel's Star Comics, including *Popples, the Get-A-long Gang, Hug-a-bunch* and *Heathcliff.*

"Now I'm back doing the Warner Bros. characters, inking Chuck Fiala's pencils on the Bugs Bunny mini-series. It's a lot of fun. I've always been attracted to these characters because of their craziness. I really enjoy it. I like things when they're silly and funny, even though myself I'm a quiet and shy type of guy. I can go into a room and sit in a corner someplace and watch everybody else be crazy and silly. The only way I can get it out of me is to put it down on paper."

In spite of the time he spends at the drawing board, John still maintains a full schedule of lettering assignments, although he has added some modern technology to assist him in the ancient art of calligraphy: the computer, a subject he shows great enthusiasm for. "I just got a new computer, a Macintosh IIcx with a big two-page monitor, which I use to create lettering." As a nod to the computer, John has taken to crediting his computer-lettered jobs to 'Jonny Mac.' "My wife, Marilee, really types a lot of the stuff in, so I've given her credit too, as 'Lee Keys.'

"I prefer the look of hand lettering because you can really vary your style, but in a pinch on a book that's running late, the computer's fast and efficient. But as for titles and logos, computers are the way to go. Even if it doesn't come out absolutely clear and clean, you can always use it as a guide. Where it also works great is where you have to show perspective, like a Superboy job I just did where they wanted the credits running down the street. The computer creates the perspective for you. It's fantastic.

"I see a big future for computers in comics. And I don't think it looks too bad. I've seen some typefaces around, some of the commercial products, that I wasn't too crazy about. They looked too stiff, so I created my own comic book typeface to work with. I tried to disguise it, make it look decent while at the same time look like it was done by hand." John pauses and adds, laughing, "I can talk about computers all day. I get wound up on the subject."

All in all, John Costanza has to be considered a lucky man. He's been able to combine his skills and interests to make a career doing the things he likes best.

FLASH

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of FLASH COMICS #1 (1940), in honor of Flash's half-century anniversary.